

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, UR, US (BARINOV, ALEKSANDR SERGEYEVICH)
(SEMIOKHIN, VLADIMIR IVANOVICH)

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTEST ABOUT LOCAL POLICE ACTIONS

REF: STATE 47673

1. FULL TEXT OF SOVIET EMBASSY'S FEB 23 PROTEST REPORTED
REFTEL FOLLOWS:

2. "ON FEBRUARY 20, 1978, AT 7 P.M. THE POLICE OF FAIRFAX
COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ARRESTED EMBASSY EMPLOYEE ALEKSANDR
BARINOV AT THE INTERSECTION OF ANNANDALE ROAD AND MARCUM
STREET AND CHARGED HIM WITH VIOLATING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS
AND DRIVIN AUTOMOBILE WHILE INTOXICATED.

3. "AFTER IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO THE POLICE OFFICERS THAT
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BARINOV WAS ATTACHED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY AND WHAT HIS
STATUS WAS, THEY FORCIBLY TOOK HIM IN THEIR CAR, DESPITE
HIS PROTESTS, TO THE POLICE STATION LOCATED AT 6507
COLUMBIA PIKE, IN FAIRFAX.

4. "THE POLICE RELEASED BARINOV ONLY AFTER EMPLOYEES OF
THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE EMBASSY AND A REPRESENTATIV

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARRIVED AT THE POLICE STATION.

5. "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT BARINOV'S CONDITION WAS NOT IN FACT A MATTER OF CONCERN TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THE POLICE, HE WAS PERMITTED TO CONTINUE DRIVING HIS CAR WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS.

6. "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S ATTENTION IS ALSO DIRECTED TO THE CASE OF ANOTHER EMBASSY EMPLOYEE, VLADIMIR SEMIOKHIN, WHO, WHILE DRIVING HOME ON DECEMBER 30, 1977, AT 11:30 P.M., WAS STOPPED AND SEARCHED BY THE POLICE AT THE INTERSECTION OF LEESBURG PIKE AND SEMINARY ROAD IN FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE PROTESTED AND STATED THAT HE WAS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR. AS IN THE CASE OF BARINOV, THE POLICE CHARGED SEMIOKHIN WITH DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE WHILE INTOXICATED.

7. "AFTER 'CLARIFYING' SEMIOKHIN'S CONDITION IN SUCH AN ORIGINAL MANNER (SIC), THE POLICE WITHDREW THE CHARGES THEY HAD MADE EARLIER AND ALLOWED SEMIOKHIN TO CONTINUE ON HIS WAY IN HIS CAR.;

8. "THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIONS OF THE POLICE CONSTITUTE A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF SOVIET EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WHO, JUST AS EMPLOYEES OF THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR IN THE UNITED STATES (SIC), ENJOY CONFIDENTIAL

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FULL IMMUNITY FROM THE JURISDICTION OF THE RECEIVING COUNTRY, ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY.

9. "IT APPEARS OBVIOUS THAT THESE CASES OF RUDE, WILLFUL ACTIONS BY THE POLICE OCCURRED, IF NOT WITH THE EXPRESS CONSENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THEN AS A RESULT OF ITS FAILURE TO PROPERLY EXPLAIN TO THE LOCAL POLICE THE IMPERMISSIBILITY OF ARRESTING OR SEARCHING EMPLOYEES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

10. "RECENTLY CASES WHERE POLICE HAVE TOWED AWAY THE AUTOMOBILES OF SOVIET EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, PARKED ON STREETS ADJACENT TO THE EMBASSY, HAVE BECOME MORE FREQUENT.

11. PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE BEHAVIOR OF THE POLICE IN THIS REGARD ON FEBRUARY 22, 1978, WHEN FOUR EMBASSY CARS PARKED ON L STREET BETWEEN 15TH AND 16TH STREETS WERE TOWED AWAY.

12. "TICKETING AND TOWING AWAY ONLY EMBASSY AUTOMOBILES, WHILE AUTOMOBILES BELONGING TO AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE NOT TOUCHED OR EVEN TICKETED, LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE THAT THE

SOVIET EMBASSY IS AN ARBITRARY OBJECT OF ATTENTION OF THE
LOCAL POLICE.

13. "THIS CAN ALSO BE DEFINITELY CONFIRMED ON THE BASIS
OF THE TIME WHEN THE AUTOMOBILES WERE TOWED AWAY, NAMELY
BETWEEN 11 A.M. AND 12 NOON, I.E., NOWHERE NEAR THE HOURS
WHEN TRAFFIC ON THESE STREETS IS HEAVY. THIS CREATES
THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CHOICE OF THE TIME FOR TOWING AWAY
THE VEHICLES, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THEY WERE TAKEN TO
AN AREA QUITE FAR FROM THE EMBASSY AND THE FACT THAT THERE
WAS A DELIBERATE DELAY IN INFORMING THE EMBASSY OF THE
WHEREABOUTS OF THE VEHICLES, WERE CAUSED BY A DESIRE ON
THE PART OF THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO CREATE UNNECESSARY
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DIFFICULTIES IN THE WORK OF EMBASSY EMPLOYEES.

14. "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH
ACTIONS BY THE POLICE ARE A DELIBERATE AND PURPOSEFUL
ATTEMPT TO FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE PARKING PROBLEM OF
EMPLOYEES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY." VANCE

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